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ered the Mexicans, Torquemada offered to the Lord his holocausts of heretics. It was the spirit of the time, not of the colonial movement, that brought forth these atrocities. Much more justified is the criticism that is made of the impoverishment of the new lands by wasteful methods of exploitation. In this respect the colonists did, indeed, on colonial soil, what they would never have dared to do in the old countries. But this is only the first stage of the process. The United States offer the best example that sooner or later nations of colonial origin wake up to the necessity of rational management of natural resources. As soon as this necessity is clearly understood, the colonist will be able, by his superior knowledge, to develop his new country better than the native could ever have done. Then, indeed, and then alone, he vindicates his right to the soil as superior to that of the native. He who succeeds in developing the treasures of a country to their highest efficiency is that country's rightful master. It is because the Indians did nothing to make themselves masters of the soil in this respect that they lost it.

The policy of the conqueror against the native, too, has changed in the course of time. The early colonists were guided by two different policies: the economic (as they understood it) and the humanitarian. The former prevailed throughout the stage of conquest; it meant the driving away, killing, or enslaving of the natives; the Catholic Church alone applied the latter. But in modern times it has been understood that a humanitarian policy is, in the long run, also the more advantageous from the economic point of view. This change is especially to be welcomed with regard to those countries where the colonist deals, not with primitive peoples, but with other civilizations; where his task is not the raising of an inferior race but rather an exchange between two different civilizations. At the time of the conquest of America, all that the conquerors could do was to destroy the native civilizations; but the conquest of India, three centuries later, enriched Europe by the treasures of literature, art, and philosophy of the conquered country. So it will be with Japan and with China. While Europeanism is advancing with large strides toward the supremacy of the whole earth, the civilizations of the Old World will never be so entirely carried away by it as were those of America. The final result of the contact of the different civilizations in modern times will be found rather in the working out, not of one uniform universal civilization, but of common foundations for the different civilizations, the destruction of the mental barriers that separate their adherents, and a better understanding of the one for the other. Then, and then only, will it be possible for any country to pursue world politics in the true meaning of the word. M. K. G.

Mittelmeerbilder. Gesammelte Abhandlungen zur Kunde der Mittelmeerländer von Dr. Theobald Fischer. Neue Folge mit 8 Kärtchen. Leipzig und Berlin, Druck und Verlag von B. G. Teubner, 1908.

This edition of Professor Fischer's *Mittelmeerbilder*, following in less than two years his first edition, includes certain additional studies of a scientific character. The work, in the main, is composed of lectures which the professor, on various occasions, has given before public audiences. For so long a period has Professor Fischer carried on his studies in Mediterranean, and particularly in Italian, geography that his word is an authority seldom to be questioned.

Section I treats in particular of the historical significance of the Mediterranean region and how its peculiar geographical conditions have contributed as factors in the cultural evolution of the border nations. In the following four sections

we are carried through an interesting study of the coasts and their changes, through the geomorphology of Italy, through a very special but interestingly presented study of the orography of the Iberian Peninsula, through a study of the climate of the Mediterranean lands with a particular reference to that of Morocco. The concluding section will appeal to the majority of readers as the most interesting and most significant. As northwestern Africa holds a place so prominent in European International Politics, the consideration of Morocco as a field for military operations is, what we might call, timely, as is also the concluding chapter on the peoples of the Mediterranean region and their significance in world politics. This part of the work, we are told in a note, is to appear in a Smithsonian Report to Congress in 1907.

E. L. S.

From Peking to Sikkim through the Ordes, the Gobi Desert, and Tibet. By Count de Lesdain. With Maps and Illustrations. New York, E. P. Dutton and Company, 1908.

We are told in the Preface of this work that the journey was a wedding tour "undertaken to gratify our wish to cross country hitherto unknown, and if possible to increase the geographical knowledge of the day." The Count must have felt gratified at the close of his journey, for new country was explored and our geographical knowledge is richer because of his travels.

It is seldom that one takes up a book of travel so entertainingly written as is this one. The style is pleasing and the author exhibits a good sense of proportion, for of scenes and events he seems to record that which the reader wishes to know. He appears to have been alert to those things which touch vitally the interests of the people whose country he visited. In his comments on the manners and customs of the people, the official and the unofficial classes, he notes a widespread conservatism, but he interestingly refers to the possibilities and the probabilities of improvement.

One of the first matters of interest mentioned by the Count is a record of his visit to the tomb of the great Mongol Emperor Jenghis Khan at Edchen Koro, which tomb he describes. To write that "no other European has hitherto been able to discover its actual site, much less to see it," must be regarded as erroneous (*vide* Yule's *Marco Polo*, Third Edition, Vol. I, pp. 249-250). After all is said, this spot must still be regarded as the traditional site. M. de Lesdain makes an occasional reference to the missionaries, who have found their way into this little known Mongol land (pp. 48, 58, 100), which is of importance. The Count is not severely critical of their conduct, but one can read in his lines a story very briefly told, explaining in part the Boxer uprisings. The author does not appear hopeful that China, in the interior, will improve very much in the near future. Her government is trying to change, "but a long number of years that no one can calculate must pass before the hundreds of millions of Chinese peasants shall awake from the senseless lethargy of their daily life."

The Count is happy in his description of the rugged scenery through which his journey led him. He is a good traveller, meeting difficulties in a masterly manner. To the resources of the regions through which he passed his eyes were open—to its agricultural interests, primitive as they are; to its mines, which are rich, but at present most difficult of access.

The illustrations are of a high grade and have been well selected. A good map shows the course taken.

E. L. S.